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LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1990 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit the following message from His Excellency Mr. Pedro de Castro Van Dunem "Loy", our Minister of External Relations.

(Signed) Manuel Pedro PACAVIRA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 19 February 1990 from the Minister of External Relations of Angola to the Secretary-General

The Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba signed at Luanda a Declaration on resuming, as of 25 February, the withdrawal of Cuban troops, which was temporarily suspended on 25 January 1990, following the actions perpetrated by UNITA against Cuban troops.

It should be noted that the original schedule for the withdrawal was delayed for 30 days.

It is my duty to forward to you the said Declaration and request that it be distributed as an official document to the members of the Security Council of the United Nations.

With highest regards,

Pedro de Castro VAN DUNEM "LOY"
Minister of External Relations
People's Republic of Angola

Enclosure

Declaration by the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba

Since the signing of the New York Accords on 22 December 1988, for peace in southern Africa, Angola and Cuba have scrupulously complied with the movement towards the north and the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops, in accordance with what was established in the bilateral agreement, which has been monitored by the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM) and recognized by the United Nations Security Council, by all the parties involved and by the observers from the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

During the course of their withdrawal, the Cuban internationalist troops were, on two occasion, the target of armed aggression on the part of the União Nacional para a Independência Total de Angola (UNITA), which cost the lives of 10 of their soldiers and caused several to be wounded. As is public knowledge, the last act of this kind occurred on 21 January 1990.

At the time of the first occurrence of aggression, the Government of the Republic of Cuba called attention to the seriousness of the situation arising from the recurrence of such acts and warned that it would take action in order to guarantee, in any circumstance, the security of its internationalist combatants in Angola.

Following the reiterated attacks and shelling carried out by UNITA against Cuban troops, the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba decided, under article 2 of the bilateral agreement signed in New York on 22 December 1988, to suspend temporarily the plan for the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops.

On 24 January, when that decision was made, more than half of the Cuban military contingent had already withdrawn. UNAVEM reported that the number of troops was 31,119 and the withdrawal schedule established the withdrawal of 33,000 troops by 1 April 1990.

Considering the steps undertaken by the Governments of the United States of America and the Republic of South Africa to reach out to UNITA, to whom that group made a commitment not to carry out again any acts of aggression against the Cuban troops;

Taking into account that the Government of the United States of America, which officially supplies UNITA with military assistance and constitutes its main supporter, will adopt appropriate measures to prevent the repetition of such acts, which could jeopardize the full implementation of the 22 December 1988 bilateral agreement between Angola and Cuba;

Welcoming with seriousness and confidence the efforts of the Côte d'Ivoire President, His Excellency Felix Houphouet Boigny, before whom UNITA pledged not to attack or to carry out any bombings against the Cuban troops;

The Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba, motivated by a constructive spirit and by the positions of principle and good faith that have guided their attitude during the negotiation process and in the implementation of the New York Accords even if they were entitled to maintain the temporary suspension of the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops from the People's Republic of Angola until the problem could be reviewed in a meeting of the Joint Verification Commission, which was postponed at the request of the Governments of South Africa and the United States of America, decided to resume such withdrawal starting 25 February 1990.

Meanwhile, the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba advise that, as a result of the serious and reproachable behaviour of UNITA on 21 January, the schedule established in the bilateral agreement suffered a delay of one month.

With the decision to resume the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalist troops, the Governments of the People's Republic of Angola and the Republic of Cuba demonstrated once again their political will in order to contribute seriously to bringing about peace in the subregion of southern Africa.

Done at Luanda, People's Republic of Angola, 20 February 1990.

By the Government of the People's Republic of Angola

Pedro de Castro VAN DUNEM "LOY"
Minister of External Relations

By the Government of the Republic of Cuba

Jorge RISQUET VALDEZ
Secretary of the CCP for External Relations

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